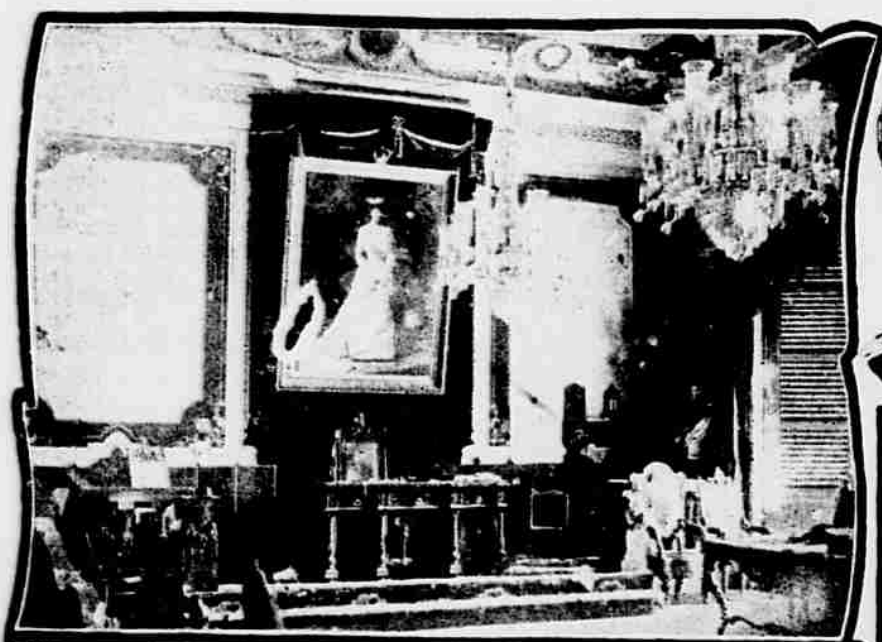
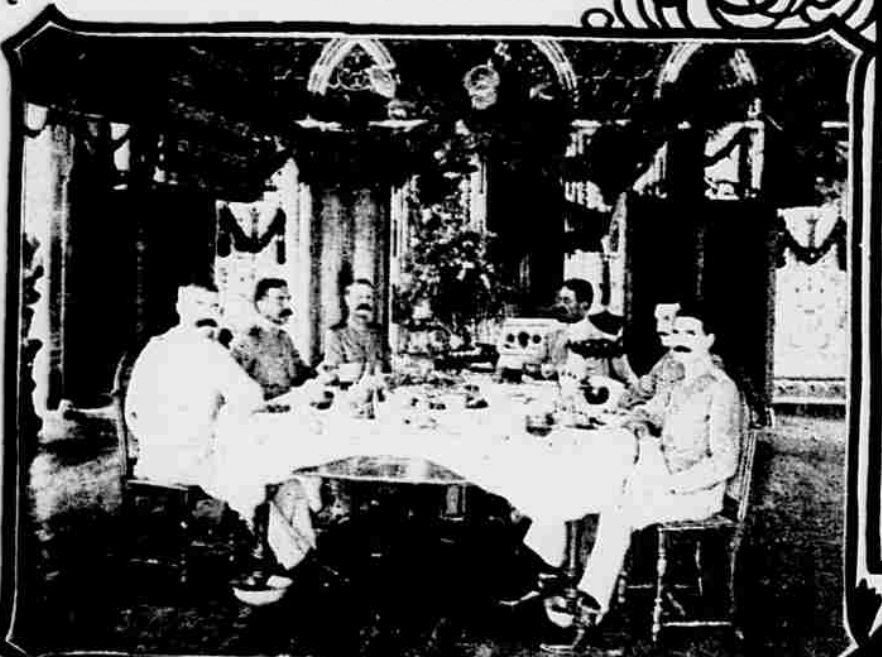


THE FIRST EXTENDED INTERVIEW WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNOR GENERAL OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

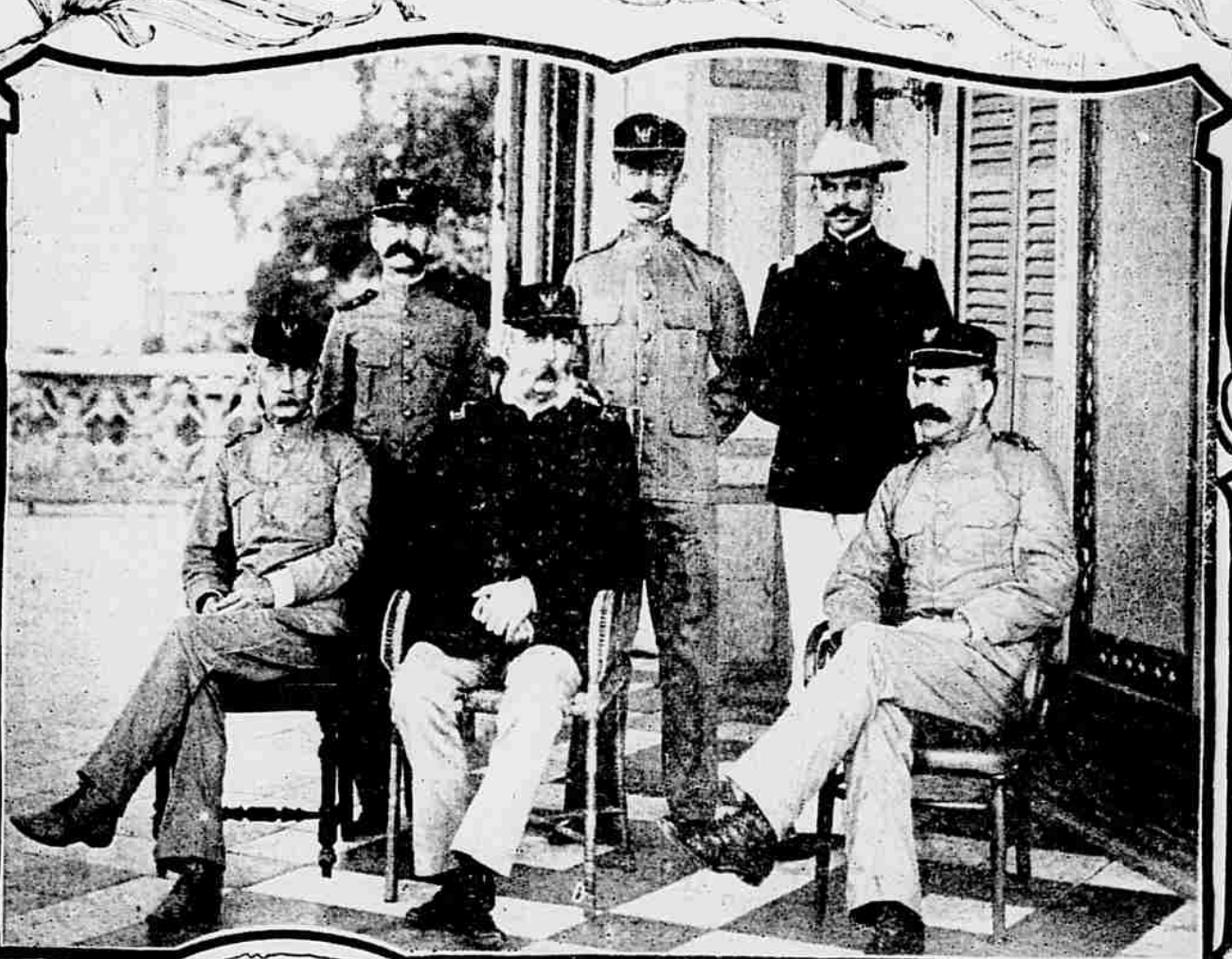


PARLOR IN THE HOME OF GENERAL OTIS, MANILA.

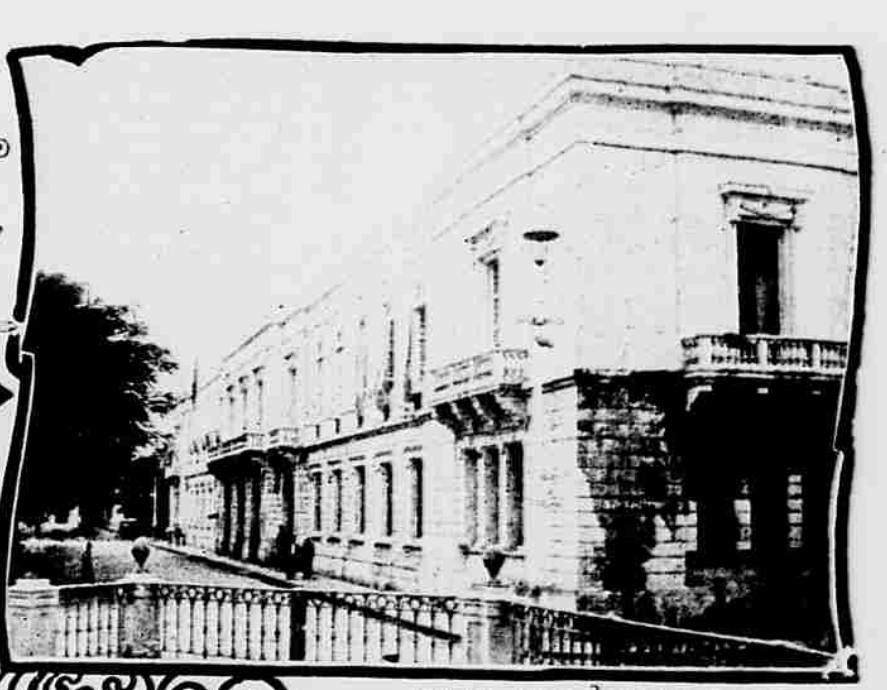


GENERAL OTIS DINING ROOM. HIS STAFF AT THE TABLE.

CARPENTER CHATS WITH GENERAL OTIS IN MANILA.



GENERAL OTIS AND HIS STAFF IN MALACANANG PALACE.



THE GOVERNMENT PALACE.



A GROUP OF FILIPINO LEADERS. AGUINALDO IS IN THE FRONT ROW WEARING A CAP.

POSSIBILITIES of Corruption and How a Dishonest Governor Could Make a Fortune—Otis Could Make \$100,000 in Three Weeks—The Resources of the Country and the Possibilities in the Way of Railroads and Other Investments—The Question of Labor—General Otis Talks of the Press—Filipino Losses—A Description of Otis as a Worker and a Word About His Chief of Staff, General Schwan.

Copyright, 1900, by Frank G. Carpenter.

Manila, March 1.—I spent last evening with General Otis at his place in Malacanang, one of the most fashionable of the suburban streets of Manila. His residence is the house erected for the Spanish Governor General of the Philippines, a great two-story structure, with floors of Philippine mahogany with a polish like the top of a new piano, windows of opalescent crystal shells and walls and ceilings frescoed and painted with flowers, cupids and leopards. The ceilings are very high, the rooms and halls large and airy, and at night, when the tinsel and chandeliers which characterize parts of the building are softened by the rays of the electric light, the palace is really imposing. It has extensive grounds filled with tropical plants and trees, and the air about it is saturated with the sweet perfume of orange blossoms. There are soldiers on guard at almost every block of the streets that lead to it. My carriage was stopped at the gate, and it was only upon saying that I had a special appointment with the General that I was permitted to pass in on foot. I found more sentries walking up and down under the porticoes, and I waited in the hall until an orderly took up my card and returned with the answer that the Military Governor would see me.

I found General Otis in his workshop—an office and bedroom combined. It had evidently been used as a parlor or music room in the days of the Spaniards, for its decorations are Moorish and seem quite out of place with its present practical, hard-working surroundings. Large writing desks have taken the place of the piano, and a plain bedstead with a mosquito netting attachment has encircled the divans. Last night the desks were littered with manuscripts, documents and black books containing translations of the Spanish conversation as to the cable, street car, telephones and electric lights of Manila, which the General had brought home.

Before I report our conversation let me show you General Otis as he appears at first sight. His picture in the newspapers do not fairly present him. As photographed he seems to be a tall, portly man, with a big head and luxuriant white whiskers. The real General Otis does not weigh more than 150 pounds. He stands about five feet eight inches in his stockings and is slender in build. His head is not at all large or imposing. The face would be small were it not for the whiskers, which are of silver gray mixed with black, well covering the hollows of the cheeks and extending below the jaw a half finger's length. He has an overhanging gray mustache, iron gray hair and very heavy black eyebrows. His eyes are small, bright and black. He has a good forehead, a thin nose, perhaps a straight nose and a rather determined mouth. He was dressed yesterday in a plain business suit, lacking the vest, and he looked more like an ordinary business man than a General in command of one of the world's greatest armies, and the absolute ruler of a country 100 miles long, inhabited by 8,000,000 as turbulent people as now exist outside of South Africa.

General Otis's entire lack of military airs is the most striking consideration in his length of service. He has been in the ranks ever since the beginning of the Civil War, when at twenty-one he left the practice of the law to go to the field. He was wounded in

the head near the close of the war and nursed out, but the doctors told him his wound would not permit him to live in the east, and he accepted an offer of service in the regular army upon the frontier. There he gradually rose until, when he became a Brigadier General, and then Major General here in May, 1898. During our conversation I asked him how he came to be sent to the Philippines. He replied that he was pitched into them without having any say in the matter, and that he was only here because he had been ordered to come.

General Otis on the Situation.
Later on I asked him if he were satisfied with the results of his work. General Otis replied:
"I can't say that I am, for I am anxious that the islands should be in a much better state, and that state, I think, will soon come. I will say, however, that we have put down the insurrection as far as any organized resistance is concerned, and that the condition of the Philippines is now as good as it has been at any time for ten years. In many places the country is as safe as it has been during the past generation. In Mindanao, the Spaniards did not dare to go outside the limits of their army posts. They were always in trouble with the natives, and in many places had their dwellings over which the Spaniards did not dare to step for fear of being shot by their enemies. Now our troops are moving about without arms outside the posts, and many expeditions have been taken into the mountains. Here in Luzon there have always been robber bands in the mountains which have preyed upon the people. The country has never been really safe."

"Do you think you can make it out, General?" I asked.
"Yes, in time, but we must keep on destroying the bandits wherever we find them. Many of the insurgents have joined such bands, and it will take some months yet to clean up the country."

Will Need Soldiers for Years.
"This will, I suppose, necessitate the keeping of a large force here on the islands, even after peace has been established, will it not?"
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"How about Americans attempting to force labor on the Philippines? Do you consider it safe?" I asked.
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ACCORDING to the American Commander, the Struggle Is Over, but a Big Army Needed for Two Years to Come—The Filipino Bandits and How They Should Be Controlled—Natives as American Soldiers—The Character of the People—Why They Are Not Fit to Govern Themselves—An Estimate of Aguinaldo by the Man Who Is Fighting Him—Why the Military Rule Should Be Continued.

stilities of the islands, and I asked General Otis if he thought there were many opportunities here for our capitalists.
He replied that the resources of the country were enormous, and that there would undoubtedly be many chances for money-making as soon as the country was properly quiet.

"At present," said he, "we need the army to keep peace and put down the insurgents, and we cannot spare troops to protect American enterprises, such as the building of railroads. There is no doubt, however, that there are many places where roads can be built at a profit. A number of lines have already been surveyed, notably some about Laguna de Bay and into the Southern and Eastern Provinces. There are men now in Washington trying to get concessions for constructing such roads. There are other projects contemplated which will be carried out later on. Some things are hampered by the Spanish concessions, such as the cable and other matters, but they will be satisfactorily settled."

Great Chances for Money Makers.
As to the general outlook for the development of the Philippines along profitable lines, I think it is good and that there will be many opportunities for money-making here in the future. The country is beyond conception rich and much of it has hardly been scratched. There are large tracts of virgin soil, deposits of iron, gold, copper and coal, and the coal deposits are said to be extensive and of good quality. The mountains are full of minerals and they are practically unexplored. Agriculturally there is no better soil anywhere than in most parts of the islands. The land will support many times its present population."

The Question of Labor.
"How about labor, General? It is said the Filipino will not work."
"I think that is a mistake," replied General Otis. "These people have never had a chance to work for good wages. They have never been paid for their work. The Spaniards gave them about \$4 in silver a month, about 10 cents a day, and many of the officials took out a commission from these wages. Since we came the cost of labor has risen. The men are receiving the full wages agreed upon, and they are working very well. I believe we have already proved that the Filipino can do the work of the country and that they will do it if they are fairly paid. At first they could not understand why we did not withhold a portion of the wages for ourselves."

"Do you think they will ever become friendly to the Americans?"
"Yes," replied General Otis, "when through as they see the times becoming good, themselves growing prosperous and their country rich. Many of them are afraid we will form trusts and monopolize all the good things of the islands. They are afraid the Filipino will be degraded as laborers. They do not trust us yet, but in time this distrust will pass away."

"Then you think our occupation of the Philippines is a good thing, General?" I asked.
"Whether it is good for us or not, we have acquired them in such a way that it is impossible for us to give them up. I have never been an expansionist, and I doubt whether I ever will be one in the ordinary sense of the word, but the islands have been forced upon us and we must go ahead and do our best for them."

war and have not allowed the whole truth to be sent to the papers.
At this question the General's face darkened and I saw that I was on delicate ground. He answered, however, saying:
"I have tried to have the truth sent home and have interfered with the correspondents as little as possible."

"How about the charge that you have increased the numbers of the Filipino dead?"
"That is not true," was the reply. "I have always been conservative in my reports of our engagements, and have usually reduced the numbers to be on the safe side. I have even orders to the officers that they must send reliable men to count the dead after every engagement, and have done all I could to arrive at the exact truth."

With this the interview closed and the General went back to his papers.

The Hardest-Worked Man in the Army.
As to General Otis's administration I find here quite a difference of opinion among the civilians and also among the officers of the army. He has strong friends and numerous critics. Some of the generals are privately of the opinion that the war could be settled with one or two short daring campaigns, while others, closer perhaps, in the councils of the administration, believe that the present policy is the only one that will result in permanent peace.

I find no question, however, as to General Otis's honesty of purpose and his fidelity to his duties. He is the hardest worked man in the army. He rises at 5:30 every morning, and by 7:30 has finished his breakfast and driven to the palace in the walled city, two miles away.

Here he works steadily till 12:30, when he drives home for lunch, returning before 1 o'clock to his desk. He keeps at it from then on until 6 and always takes a stack of papers and documents home when he leaves for the day. He has an hour or so for dinner, and then works until 11 and often until midnight. Within the past few weeks he has been playing a game of solitaire almost every day, and many of the officials took out a commission from these wages. Since we came the cost of labor has risen. The men are receiving the full wages agreed upon, and they are working very well. I believe we have already proved that the Filipino can do the work of the country and that they will do it if they are fairly paid. At first they could not understand why we did not withhold a portion of the wages for ourselves."

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